

A Spiritual Encouragement Message January 26, 2021

God Will Save His Faithful Remnant

by Oscar Velazquez

There had been always those very few people that remained faithful and served the Lord even when the rest of the world was totally lost in their sins, "living" according to their own ways.

Noah walked in God's way even when his family were the only ones following him. "If He did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly" (2 Peter 2:5 ESV).

Abraham left his country and his family because even his parents were idolaters. "And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, 'Long ago, your fathers lived beyond the Euphrates, Terah, the father of Abraham and of Nahor; and they served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. I gave him Isaac" (Joshua 24:2-3 ESV).

Lot remained faithful to God even when his own immediate family didn't and got perverted by the depraved influence of the community. "If by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes He condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; and if He rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard); then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment" (2 Peter 2:6-9 ESV).

In Israel's history, in the time of the Judges (Acts 13:20), when the nation forgot about God because the parents didn't pass the Torah down to their children (Judges 2:10), while doing what was evil in the sight of the Lord (Judges 2:11, 3:7,12, 4:1, 6:1, 10:6, 13:1) and each one was doing what was best in their own eyes (Judges 17:6, 18:1, 19:1, 21:25). In a time in which wickedness reigned in Israel for more than four centuries, God still had a remnant (a part that is left, or reserved). Naomi, Ruth and Boaz, those three people kept a strong and faithful character in the midst of chaos, disobedience, adultery, idolatry and violence. God blessed them and rewarded them bringing about the Messiah from their genealogy.

In the Scriptures (1 Kings 19 is one example), these faithful people are called the remnant. "I ask, then, has God rejected His people? By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected His people whom He foreknew. Do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he appeals to God against Israel? "Lord, they have killed your prophets, they have demolished your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life." But what is God's reply to him? "I have kept for myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal." So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace" (Romans 11:1-5 ESV).

Those faithful believers are also called God's kingdom (Daniel 2:44), they follow God, they walk in His way and only the Lord reigns in their lives and no matter what goes on in this world these faithful remnants have been there and will always be there by God's protection and providence (Matthew 16:18).

Neither Covid-19, nor divisions over man established politics, nor skin color differences, nor economic crises will rob their joy of salvation in Christ. "What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will He not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised— who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:31-39 ESV).

In Biblical times, in the Middle East, during the harvest of the barely and the wheat, people cleaned their harvest in the threshing floor by throwing it up to the wind with a winnowing fork, so the grains remained because they are heavy, but the chaff blowed away and it was thrown away or burned. That is how they separated the good grain that remained from the un- remained chaff (Matthew 3:12). That illustrated how the Lord will separate and gather His remnant.

If we actively persevere in His grace and remain obeying and serving Him, then we are part of God's faithful remnant.